

CLEVELAND SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

ANNUAL
REPORT
1976

Goodrich-Gannett House 1906

Grasselli Home 1919

Highbrook Lodge 1929

Social Service Center 1951

Highbrook Lodge 1956

Industrial Building 1955

The Sight Center 1966

Mobility Training Park 1975

Business Enterprises Building 1974

Rehabilitation Training Residence 1976

(existing Sight Center)

OUR 70TH YEAR OF SERVING THE BLIND AND VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

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This Annual Report was made possible with gifts from several members of the Board of Trustees of The Cleveland Society for the Blind.

President's Message

When the Cleveland Society for the Blind was established in 1906, the organization consisted of an "experimental class in weaving" at the Goodrich Settlement House.

Seventy years later—and now offering thirty-one direct services—the Society enjoys its reputation of being one of the most respected agencies in the country serving men, women and children who are visually handicapped.

Then, as now, the Society encouraged independence and self-sufficiency. Purposes of the Society published in 1915 were to: * Place blind children in the public schools; * Secure work for the employable blind; * Promote friendship and social recreation; * Send Home Teachers and visitors to those confined in their homes; * Serve as a Bureau of Information on matters relating to the blind.

The growth of the Agency has ever since been steady.

During 1976, 3150 different individuals were directly served by one or more CSB programs. In addition, 22,360 children were screened for amblyopia; 1274 adults were screened for glaucoma and 552 persons came to the Low Vision Clinic for evaluation and aids.

Through the agency's Public Education and Information services, over 13,000 persons toured the Sight Center and Business Enterprises buildings. Another estimated 50,000 were reached through outside speaking engagements and film showings.

Unfortunately, in 1976, a tightened economy placed critical pressure on the Society's Industrial Division. This called for increased effort and commitment on the part of Board Members, Advisors, volunteers and staff. All responded magnificently and I gratefully salute their achievements.



*Marvin J. Laronge
President, Board of Trustees*

The Cleveland Society for the Blind exists to help the visually handicapped of the Greater Cleveland area realize their full potential as people. In the pages of this annual report, you will see how blind individuals—with assistance from the Society—move toward that realization.

It is a great privilege to serve as president of this institution. We look forward to continued expansion and strengthening of programs so that the Agency can give maximum assistance to those who come for services.

Marvin J. Laronge

Sincerely,
Marvin J. Laronge
Marvin J. Laronge, President
Board of Trustees

A black and white photograph capturing a moment of communication between two individuals. On the right, a man with dark hair and a mustache is shown in profile, facing left. He wears a light-colored suit jacket over a striped shirt. A hearing aid is visible in his left ear, and a white circular badge is pinned to his lapel with the text "I AM DEAF & BLIND". On the left, a woman is seen from the side, her hands raised in a complex sign language gesture. She wears a dark-colored sweatshirt. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

I AM
DEAF
&
BLIND

Rehabilitation Services

December of 1976 had an air of anticipation with the ground-breaking for the Society's new Rehabilitation Training Residence. This long overdue modern apartment facility will house up to 35 students enrolled in rehabilitation or Food Services training. It will also provide additional classrooms, recreation area and a firsthand opportunity to practice all the skills of independent living.

Construction of the new residence was made possible by an 80-20 matching grant from the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission.

There was increased emphasis on the use of electronic aids as a regular part of each person's rehabilitation program. Many of the 138 who were in training were introduced to reading skills through Closed-Circuit Television systems and the Optacon and to such mobility devices as the Laser Cane, the Sonic Guide and the Russell Path Sounder (these aids are still in the experimental stage in rehabilitation of the blind).

In close collaboration with the Ohio Bureau of Services for the Blind, more than 200 elderly persons, ages 65 to 90, were provided with instruction in their own home: mobility, skills of daily living, and for some, even an opportunity to earn extra income through participation in the Crafts for Sale Program.

*(Opposite)
Mobility teacher gives
instructions to a deaf/blind
trainee in rehabilitation*

Community Services

Oquaga . . . 1000 Pop-up Clowns . . . Kings of the Highway and closed-circuit radio are all a part of the Community Services story of 1976.

Three hundred and fifty-nine clients participated in group programs and special trips such as the one to the Oquaga summer resort in New York state. Added excitement was caused when a filming crew from WKYC-TV was there to take scenes for a MONTAGE program . . .

The crafts person who makes the delightful Pop-up Clowns for Crafts-for-Sale went over the magic number of 1000. This program divided proceeds over \$10,000. among the 74 persons participating . . .

The Bicentennial took on extra meaning for the more than 200 in the audience when the United States Soldiers Chorus — "Kings of the Highway" — presented a special concert at the Sight Center . . .

Radio Reading Service 'fired up' in 1976 and by the end of the year, 1000 handicapped persons were tuning in their special radio receivers to hear newspapers read — and other programs via closed-circuit radio. Among the comments from the listeners: "I used to have to call my friends to find out what's on sale. Now they call me."

Prevention of Blindness, Volunteer Services, Low Vision Clinic and Children's Services—all under the Community Services umbrella—are detailed elsewhere in this report.

(Opposite)

- a — Activity Day Crafts Class*
- b — TV camera and "star" at Oquaga*
- c — Conversation with the Deaf/Blind*
- d — Listening to Radio Reading Service*
- e — Guests at a Christmas party*





Prevention of Blindness

A well-worn sign, displayed at many screening activities of the Cleveland Society for the Blind, carries this message: 'In the prevention of blindness, screening serves two goals:

- 1 — Service to the individual referred for further evaluation and/or care.
- 2 — Education for better eye health and safety on a personal and community level.'

In the past year, 653 persons were referred for further examination and/or care in the screening programs of the Prevention of Blindness Service. Of this number, 582 were preschool children. Altogether, 20,348 youngsters were screened by volunteers working in day care centers, Head Start units, nursery school and many community preschool vision screening programs across the United Torch area.

The remaining 71 persons referred for further examination were adults who were screened for glaucoma — a leading cause of blindness.

Education for better eye health and safety was part of every training session for the 1612 volunteers who helped with the screenings.

In addition to the screening programs, an important facet of the Prevention of Blindness Service is its public education work directed to the general public and to staffs of other agencies.

Seminars and specialized programs were conducted last year for more than 400 nurses, social work students and special education teachers.

In addition, films and discussions on eye safety and the care of the eyes were presented to some 15000 (estimated) persons.

(Opposite)

- a — Volunteers assemble counter cards for The Cleveland Eye Bank
- b — A child is screened
- c — One of 1,612 screening volunteers with preschool age child, testing for amblyopia

- d — Recording a commercial for Prevention of Blindness
- e — The air-puff tonometer machine for testing glaucoma, was used extensively for glaucoma screenings

Social Services

The Casework Department — "Gateway" to most of the services provided by the Society — assisted a total of 686 new referrals of blindness during 1976. Casework is where the first call for assistance is received. It is in this department, too, that individuals and their families are acquainted with the many diverse services of the Society which benefit the rest of their lives.

But the Casework Department does more than assist only the newly blinded; this past year, a total of 1651 visually impaired persons were helped with a variety of personal and financial problems. Five hundred thirty-three persons received financial and material assistance—clothing, emergency food money, scholarship dollars for a Braille watch or a trip to camp; 222 persons were in need of referral to other community agencies to procure housing, homemaker assistance, arrange for a visiting nurse or long range welfare assistance.

Bus passes for RTA, permitting the blind individual to travel free during specified hours, were processed for another 192 persons. Many more received assistance in understanding their eligibility for real estate tax reductions under the Homestead Act Amendments and for exemptions from 'information call' charges by Ohio Bell Telephone Company.

The Casework Department offered assistance to more than 50% of all clients served by the Society during 1976. Hopefully, for each one of these persons, the quality of life—and their ability to cope with their blindness—was improved as a result.

(Opposite)

During 1976, there were 703 new applicants for a Talking Book machine — bringing the total to 2,461 machines on loan from the agency





Kim and Beauty enjoyed each other during horseback riding lessons at camp.

Children's Services

For the second year in a row, there were thirty new children registered at the agency. Some were born blind—others lost their vision in 1976. These children ranged in age from birth to 12 years. A very important phase of Children's Services is the counseling given to the parents.

For the first time since Highbrook was opened to children, preschoolers—each accompanied by one parent—spent a week at camp in 1976.

Sixteen other children who were both deaf and blind experienced a full week's camping. For 13 of these youngsters, it was the first time they had ever camped.

An additional 45 boys and girls, 7 through 17 years, camped together for two weeks. A special highlight of this session was when the teenagers were invited to visit and explore one of the Tall Ships which came to Cleveland as a part of the Bicentennial celebration.

There's more to Children's Services than the "fun things." Financial assistance was given in several instances: one for a little girl, 4 years old and autistic, in addition to being blind. There was a chance that HELP (an agency for retarded children) would accept this child for care and treatment. But, first she had to have ten consecutive days of evaluation. Transportation both ways was needed and the Society provided the financial assistance.

In 1976, 198 children received services (or counseling with parents) from the Society.

Financial Pages

THE CLEVELAND SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
DECEMBER 31, 1976

ASSETS

	1976	1975
GENERAL ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 17,424	\$ 95,983
Accounts Receivable		
Less Allowance for Doubtful Accounts		
of \$21,561 (1976) and \$6,792 (1975)	317,742	424,285
Inventories (at Lower of Cost or Market)	403,836	382,877
Prepaid Expenses and Deferred Charges	<u>51,607</u>	<u>18,543</u>
TOTAL GENERAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 790,609</u>	<u>\$ 921,688</u>
RESTRICTED ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 4,888	\$ 5,292
Investments (Market Value \$511,535 – 1976)	471,120	441,979
Due From General Funds	106,444	215,421
Due From Other Funds	—	64,066
Cash Surrender Value of Life Insurance	84,304	80,652
TOTAL	<u>666,756</u>	<u>807,410</u>
Cash Annuities	5,000	—
Investment Annuities	<u>101,817</u>	<u>—</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED ASSETS	<u>\$ 773,573</u>	<u>\$ 807,410</u>
LAND, BUILDING & EQUIPMENT FUND ASSETS		
Land	\$ 762,908	\$ 652,722
Buildings	4,673,761	4,713,334
Equipment	<u>1,536,689</u>	<u>1,240,754</u>
	6,973,358	6,606,810
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>1,743,734</u>	<u>1,513,966</u>
	5,229,624	5,092,844
Construction in Progress	147,619	101,976
Deposit with State – Resident Center	<u>266,387</u>	<u>—</u>
NET LAND, BUILDING & EQUIPMENT	<u>\$5,643,630</u>	<u>\$5,194,820</u>
ENDOWMENT FUND ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 2,181	\$ 14,901
Investments (Market Value \$1,477,562 – 1976)	1,071,296	1,269,153
Due From Other Funds	<u>265,000</u>	<u>244,537</u>
TOTAL ENDOWMENT FUNDS	<u>\$1,338,477</u>	<u>\$1,528,972</u>
TOTAL CONSOLIDATED ASSETS	<u>\$8,546,289</u>	<u>\$8,452,890</u>

GENERAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES

	1976	1975
GENERAL LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$ 182,838	\$ 388,201
Accrued Expenses	37,444	88,430
Due to Restricted Funds	371,444	460,339
Loans Payable	78,000	—
Earned Surplus and Reserves	<u>120,883</u>	<u>(15,282)</u>
TOTAL GENERAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ 790,609</u>	<u>\$ 921,688</u>
RESTRICTED LIABILITIES		
FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 773,573</u>	<u>\$ 807,410</u>
LAND, BUILDING & EQUIPMENT FUND LIABILITIES		
Investment in Land, Buildings & Equipment	\$5,630,630	\$5,147,231
6.5% First Mortgage Payable (Apartment)	<u>13,000</u>	<u>47,589</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$5,643,630</u>	<u>\$5,194,820</u>
ENDOWMENT FUND LIABILITIES		
FUND BALANCE	<u>\$1,338,477</u>	<u>\$1,528,972</u>
TOTAL CONSOLIDATED LIABILITIES	<u>\$8,546,289</u>	<u>\$8,452,890</u>

These statements conform with "Standards of Accounting and Financial Reporting for Voluntary Health & Welfare Organizations."

*The 1976 Statements are subject to audit.
1975 results have been audited.*

THE CLEVELAND SO
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT
AND CHANGES IN

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER
(000's)

1976

	CURRENT FUNDS		
	UNRESTRICTED		
	Uncommitted	Board-Designated Funds Functioning as Endowment	Restricted
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE:			
Public Support:			
General Contributions	\$ 510.9	\$ 301.9	\$208.9
Contributions received from United Torch Services	<u>115.9</u>		
Total Public Support	626.8	301.9	208.9
Revenue:			
Net Sales Food Service Division	1,984.9		
Net Sales Industrial Division	1,130.8		
Program Service Fees	42.7		
Miscellaneous Revenue	76.1		
Investment Income	67.8	72.9	31.4
Rehabilitation Fees	218.9		
Realized Gains (Losses) on Investment Transactions		64.7	
Total Revenue	<u>3,521.2</u>	<u>137.6</u>	<u>31.4</u>
Total Support and Revenue	4,148.0	439.5	240.3
EXPENSES:			
Food Service Division	1,901.1		
Industrial Division	1,199.8		
Program Services:			
General			
Camp	56.5		
Rehabilitation	232.9		
Support Services:			
Management and General	531.3		
Restricted Fund Expenditures		489.5	177.2
Total Expense	<u>3,921.6</u>	<u>489.5</u>	<u>177.2</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Public Support and Revenue Over Expenses	226.4	(50.0)	63.1
OTHER CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES:			
Additions to Land, Building & Equipment	(497.2)		
Depreciation	175.8		
Net Book Value of Fixed Asset Disposals	48.3		
Decrease in Mortgage			(34.6)
Cash Transfers	171.7	(140.3)	(51.2)
Subsidies to Program Services—Camp	11.2		(11.2)
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	<u>(15.3)</u>	<u>1,528.9</u>	<u>807.4</u>
Fund Balances, End of Year	<u>\$ 120.9</u>	<u>\$1,338.6</u>	<u>\$773.5</u>

LAND SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND
F SUPPORT, REVENUE, EXPENSES
ANGES IN FUND BALANCES

ED DECEMBER 31, 1976 AND 1975
(000'S OMITTED)

		1975				
		CURRENT FUNDS				
		UNRESTRICTED				
Land, Building and Equipment Fund	Total	Uncommitted	Board-Designated Funds Functioning as Endowment	Restricted	Land, Building and Equipment Fund	Total
\$ 155.8	\$1,177.5	\$ 183.1	\$ 413.8	\$516.0	\$	\$1,112.9
155.8	115.9	109.8	413.8	516.0		109.8
	1,293.4	292.9				1,222.7
1,984.9	2,736.8				2,736.8	
1,130.8	993.6				993.6	
42.7	64.1				64.1	
76.1						
172.1		66.1		30.8		96.9
218.9	264.7					264.7
64.7		59.1		(6.0)		53.1
-0-	3,690.2	125.2		24.8		4,287.1
155.8	4,983.6	4,430.0	539.0	540.8		5,509.8
1,901.1	2,850.2				2,850.2	
1,199.8	1,251.2				1,251.2	
56.5	53.8				53.8	
232.9	446.8				446.8	
531.3	437.9				437.9	
666.7						291.9
-0-	4,588.3	5,039.9		291.9		5,331.8
155.8	395.3	(609.9)	539.0	248.9		178.0
497.2	-0-	(79.4)		(194.9)	274.3	-0-
(175.8)	-0-	236.2			(236.2)	-0-
(48.3)	-0-	.9		2.5	(3.4)	-0-
34.6	-0-			(38.9)	38.9	-0-
19.8	-0-	399.1	(443.4)	44.3		-0-
	-0-	40.3		(40.3)		-0-
5,147.3	7,468.3	(2.5)	1,433.3	785.8	5,073.7	7,290.3
\$5,630.6	\$7,863.6	\$ (15.3)	\$1,528.9	\$807.4	\$5,147.3	\$7,468.3

**NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED AND RELATED EXPENDITURES
FOR SELECTED AREAS OF SERVICE**

	NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED		TOTAL EXPENDITURE PER SERVICE AREA		EXPENDITURE PER CLIENT	
	<u>1976</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1975</u>
Social Service (Casework)	1,651	1,545	\$116,327	\$111,782	\$ 70.46	\$ 72.35
Supportive Service (Talking Book, Aids & Appliances, Taping)	1,960	1,433	74,815	56,756	38.17	39.61
General Rehabilitation						
In House Program	138	124	202,750	181,352	1,469.20	1,462.50
Low Vision Clinic	552	611	17,244	20,090	31.24	32.88
Camping	225	207	76,667	64,689	340.74	312.51
Prevention of Blindness	17,048	20,108	32,876	35,490	1.93	1.77
Food Service Employment	62	80	40,827	27,846	658.50	348.08
Sheltered Workshop Employment (Industrial Division)	60	68	252,208	156,484	4,203.47	2,301.24



Volunteer Services

(a) Mrs. Jack Miske, Chairman of Braille Service Volunteers; (b) Ed Jeschelnig, former client, volunteers in the Workshop Evaluation program of Rehabilitation; (c) Bobbie Nieder and Hilda Woodrich volunteer wherever needed in the agency; (d) Ligon Buford, reader for Radio Reading Service; (e) Earl W. Keyes, Jr., Taping Volunteer; (f & g) Mrs. Al Grimes and Mrs. Buddy (Rose) Leventhal, members of Helm Committee, volunteer for Crafts-for-Sale.

An outstanding contribution of the community to the Cleveland Society for the Blind is the dedicated and gifted contingent of selfless volunteers who helped the agency in 1976.

Officers and Members of the Board of Trustees and the Advisory Committees devoted hundreds of hours to the essential task of governing the Society.

Other men and women gave unstintingly of their time in such areas as:

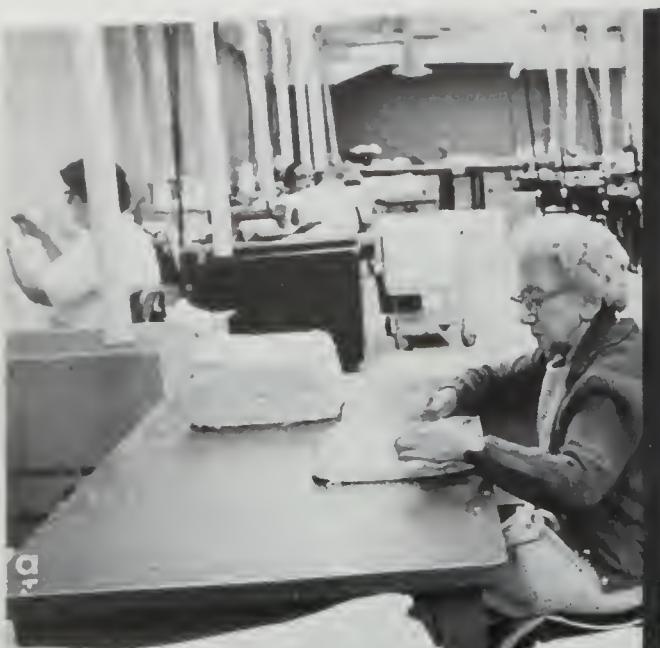
Braille Services	— <u>95 volunteers</u>
Crafts-for-Sale	— <u>103 volunteers</u>
Driving	— <u>66 volunteers</u>
Screening Preschoolers	— <u>1,612 volunteers</u>
Taping Services	— <u>256 volunteers</u>

Women's Committees,
sponsors of social clubs
made up of visually
handicapped individuals—266 volunteers

Radio Reading	— <u>103 volunteers</u>
Clerical Tasks	— <u>18 volunteers</u>
Rehabilitation Program	— <u>20 volunteers</u>
Friendly Visitors	— <u>30 volunteers</u>
Education Services	— <u>40 volunteers</u>
"Jacks and Jills" of all trades*	— <u>436 volunteers</u>

The Cleveland Society for the Blind owes all 3045 of them a tremendous debt of gratitude.

*Jacks and Jills: 55 people who delivered Christmas gifts and baskets; 110 volunteers who make the "touch" books for preschool blind children; 200 Brownies who make occluders used in the screening program for amblyopia; 6 volunteers who made Christmas and greeting cards for blind children and adults; 65 volunteers who made favors for the various club groups.



Industrial Division

The year 1976 was marked by a deep feeling of frustration for the Industrial Division. Due to increased competitiveness from private industry, the financial condition continued to be a major challenge.

A new manager was hired in September and several new programs were initiated by the end of the year.

Retail sales to chain store outlets were approached from the standpoint of servicing a central warehouse and eventually phasing out the costly store-to-store deliveries. This program has met with good initial success.

National Industries for the Blind was most helpful with consulting services and with providing additional assignments of government allocations. The Division is now sewing pillowcases — has resumed making bulletin boards and has become one of the largest manufacturers in the country of cotton wet mopheads.

(Opposite)

a — Sewing Department

b — Assembling for Contract Services

c — Broom Shop

Food Services Division

At the close of 1976, the Food Services Division was operating 33 Snack Bars, with 36 managers and 10 relief operators.

Five new Snack Bars were opened during the year; two others were completely remodeled and still another one was moved to a new building and changed from a vending operation to a complete cafeteria set-up.

The new locations are:

Tremco-Mercantile Building
South Green Road, Cleveland, Ohio

The Electronic Institute
4300 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

VGRS
2239 E. 55th Street, Cleveland, Ohio

White Trucks
East 79th Street, Cleveland, Ohio

Justice Center
1 Lakeside, N.W., Cleveland, Ohio

The operation offering complete cafeteria service is located at the Wickliffe Lubrizol plant.

After twelve weeks of intensive training, the Cleveland Society for the Blind Food Service Training program enrolled 52 students in 1976. This figure includes evaluations as well as actual training. Students were referred from Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

A recent follow-up on those who completed the training program showed that over 85% were working in Snack Bars by the end of the year.

(Opposite)

One of the five new Snack Bar operations opened in 1976 – this one is in the Tremco-Mercantile Building

SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND



Summary of Gifts

BEQUESTS

Bailey, Nelson Wiibur
 Braun, Marie A.
 Clark, Robert R.
 Davidson, Beulah I.
 Downie, James H., Trust
 Drefahl, Emma
 Eshner, Jules
 Fenton, Mary Frances
 Hull, Ray F.
 Jenkins, Thomas G.
 Kirby, Dorothy W.
 Lesser, William J.
 Mergner, Arthur J., Trust
 Miller, Margaret M.
 Oberstadt, Elizabeth S.
 Oster, Vivian B.
 Pomeroy, Mildred Wright
 Prange, Igerna M.
 Shanks, Eva G.
 Spero, Albert M.
 Stone, Charles L.
 Wilkins, Esther Seward

BRAILLE SERVICES:

A. BRAILLE - GENERAL:

Huntington, John,
 Benevolent Fund
 Rohricht, Mrs. Dorothy
 Sarah Circle of Maplewood
 U. P. Church
 Suburban Temple Women's
 Comm. Braille Fund
 Temple Women's Assoc.

B. BRAILLE MUSIC AND THERAPY FUND:

Adomeit, Mrs. George G.
 Ardis, Mrs. Ethel Layer
 Chisholm, Corning, Trust
 Day, Mrs. Gladys
 Donachie, Mrs. James
 Donum Fund, The
 Doolittle, Mr. & Mrs. Robt.
 Flesheim Foundation
 Frohring, Mrs. W. O.
 Harris, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert
 McKenzie, Mrs. J. M.
 Prentice, Mrs. Wm. H.
 Spivack, Joseph & Gladys
 Fndn., Inc.
 Thompson, Chester A.*
 Widdell, Mr. & Mrs. H. E.
 Wiley, Mr. & Mrs. Bruce D.

C. MARJORY K. NACHMAN BRAILLE SERVICE FUND:

Nachman, Mr. & Mrs. Geo. P.

D. SHARON M. KRAUS BRAILLE MUSIC FUND:

Kraus, Mrs. Raymond M.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

A. MOBILITY TRAINING PARK:

Blum, Tom L. E.

B. REHABILITATION TRAINING RESIDENCE BLDG. FUND:

A H S Fndn. (Dr. and Mrs.
 Leland Schubert)
 A S C Fndn., Inc., Bowman
 Distr., Barnes Group, Inc.
 Affelder, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis J.
 American Greetings Corp.
 Arden, Ms. Dorothy

*deceased

Banks-Baldwin Law Pub. Co.
 Bates, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred O.
 Bennett, Dr. James E.
 Benson, Keith S. & Jane S.,
 Foundation
 Blakeslee, Mr. & Mrs. J. R., Jr.
 Blywise Foundation
 Bolton, Mrs. Newell C.
 Bredenbeck, Mr. & Mrs. Rudolf
 Breitenbach, Mr. & Mrs. M.
 Brooks, James C., Jr.
 Bruner, Mr. & Mrs. Clark E.
 Bruning, Katherine L.
 Bryant, Ms. Indra
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